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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,369	10/15/2003	Craig C. Klocke	P06629US0-5195	6717
34082 7590 08/11/2008 ZARLEY LAW FIRM P.L.C. CAPITAL SQUARE 400 LOCUST, SUITE 200 DES MOINES, IA 50309-2350				
EXAMINER WEINSTEIN, LEONARD J				
ART UNIT 3746		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/11/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,369

Applicant(s)

KLOCKE, CRAIG C.

Examiner

LEONARD J. WEINSTEIN

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6, 9-13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 14 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/29/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 20, 2008 has been entered.
2. The examiner acknowledges the amendments to claim 1. The examiner notes that claim 21 remains listed as (new) however it was presented in the response filed November 30, 2007. The examiner notes claim 22 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 7-9, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Du US 2002/0176784, as evidenced by Du et al. US 6,375,433 and Fujii et al. US 4,747,754, in view of Kuraghaki et al. US 2001/0017077. Du '784 teaches all the limitations as claimed for a method of controlling the angle of a swashplate 104 of a hydrostatic unit (as shown in figure 1) including: **[claim 7]** the step of the method of

- a. 602, 604, 606, 608 - generating an electric signal based on a set point signal (α),
- b. 610 - receiving the electric signal, via 318, 320, 322, in a microprocessor 324, interpolating the information from the electric signal using an algorithm contained (Eq. 1 - after ¶0031 and Eq.2 - after ¶0039) in the microprocessor 324, sending an output signal from the microprocessor 324 to a pressure control 302, and generating a pressure signal (\dot{P}_c) in the pressure control 302, determining a slew rate ($\dot{\alpha}_d$) -- as evidenced by Du '433 in column 5 line 34 where $\dot{\alpha}$ is the angular velocity of the swashplate) of the swashplate 104 based on the pressure signal, and
- c. 612 - displacing the swashplate (¶0038);

Du '784 further teaches the method including: **[claim 8]** a set point signal is generated by measuring an operational parameter (α); **[claim 9]** the step wherein the operational parameter is the angle (α) of the swashplate 104; **[claim 14]** the step including a pressure control 302 is a pilot valve with one boost spool 308 (¶0019); **[claim 21]** and

the step of the method of (602) receiving a feed back signal, via element 320, within the microprocessor 324 that is dependent on an angle (α) of the swashplate 104.

Du '784 fails to teach the following limitation of a method including sending an output signal that is superimposed with a dither signal. Du teaches a pressure control 302 that is an electro-hydraulic valve controlled by an electrical signal (§0019). Fujii teaches that a known electro-hydraulic valve used for controlling the displacement of a variable displacement compressor uses a solenoid 31 combined with a spool valve 37 to alter the balance of pressure in a set of passageways communicating with crank 13, suction 6, and discharge chamber 7. The solenoid valve is actuated to move a spool valve 37 in order to allow or obstruct passageways from communicating, thus altering the pressure in a crank chamber, the angle of a swashplate, and the displacement of the compressor. Fujii provides evidence that one type of electro hydraulic valve, as referenced by Du '784, used for altering the displacement of compressor by changing the operating angle of a swashplate combines a solenoid with a spool valve. Using a solenoid for electrically controlling the position of a valve, similar to the manner broadly referred to by Du '784 in paragraph 0019, was a known method at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by Fujii, and one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to alter the position of a spool valve, as taught by Du '784, with a solenoid, as taught by Fujii.

Du '784 fails to teach the following limitation of a method including sending an output signal that is superimposed with a dither signal. As discussed above it would have been obvious to use a solenoid to electrically control the position of the spool 308

in the pressure control 302 taught by Du '784. Kuragaki teaches that a method for controlling the operation of a solenoid valve includes superimposing a dither on the solenoid circuit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to alter a method for controlling the angle of a swashplate as taught by Du '784, modified by combining a spool with a solenoid in order to provide an electro-hydraulic valve as taught by Du '784 and evidenced by Fujii, to superimpose a dither on a solenoid current, as taught by Kuragaki, in order to alter a valve's position more smoothly than when a dither is not superimposed (Kuragaki - ¶ 0004).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEONARD J. WEINSTEIN whose telephone number is (571)272-9961. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3746

/Leonard J Weinstein/
Examiner, Art Unit 3746